We stand in strong affirmation of the resolution, resolved: US public K-12 schools should be allowed to regulate students’ off-campus electronic speech.

As we support the pro case, the con side must prove to us that lives of students are less important than the reduced constitutional rights provided to them by: Emancipation case law

Contention 1: Bullying is an epidemic sweeping the nation, from cyber-bullying.org, bullying is like a virus, and has adapted so that it can not be immunized as easily as it has adapted through the internet. Because of this the laws passed before that outlaw bullying have become invalid, and the impact of this is incredibly severe, it is prooven that bullying not only is a problem during schools lives, however bullies are 60% more likely to commit a crime when they are adults. Furthermore, about 19 billion dollars are lost in employment every year due to bullying. There are many instances of cyber-bullying one of the most popular is the case of Amanda Todd, who was bullied to such an extent that she committed suicide by drinking bleach twice. She is not the only one who fell prey to this epidemic the cases of Tyler Clementi, Jessica Logan, Sarah Lynn Butler, Hannah Smith, Phoebe Prince, David Molang, Ronan Hughes, and many many more are nearly identical. We need to realize that there are countless cases where people have to resort to killing themselves to escape the life they are living. The amount of people who commit suicide every year are not miniscule as the opposition may bring up it is in fact 4,500 children that commit suicide every year.

Contention 2: Suicide is not the only problem that is found from not regulating electronic speech, many times students cheat on tests and even buy and sell illegal banned substances like prescription medication and narcotics, like marijuana and cocaine. According to a survey conducted by CASAColumbia, ¾ of teens “between the ages of 12 and 17 years old admitted that seeing photos of fellow teens using drugs on social media encouraged them to do the same.” Granted students would be able to do all these things even without electronic speech, however IM’s and other ways of instantly communicating through encrypted filters like snapchat and whatsapp allow students to do this easily without being caught. By being able to regulate students electronic speech, they could catch the source of these drugs and cheats in the school and punish them to eradicate these instances and cause the schools to do their jobs better as the safety of students as well as their education are threatened by these instances.

Contention 3: Subpoint 1 Defined by Merriam-Webster’s English dictionary, to regulate is “to bring (something) under the control of authority.” In context of this case, it would be to bring abusers of free speech online into control of authority. This does not imply monitoring of students’ off-campus electronic speech, merely the right to punish those who become known as offenders. This simple definition of the word would strike any of our opponents’ arguments about violation of privacy off the flow.

Contention 3 Subpoint 2: Now that we know the definition of regulate, we can look at some impacts that not regulating can have. Since school officials would not be monitoring, and merely disciplining bullies, there should be no fear of expressing opinions as long as they don’t harm others. The opposition will frame their case in such a way that schools look like they’re violating students’ rights to free speech. They are ignoring the simple fact that only vile messages will be seen and at that, only when they are exposed to teachers or administration. They will continuously tell you that schools are violating the law of the land - the First Amendment - of their students. But allow me to ask you a question, which is more important, the lives of nearly 4,500 children every year, or the rights of a few bullies who have ruined people's lives. As I said before we support the pro case and because of that the con side will have to prove to you the the rights of a few terrible bullies are more important than the lives of many thousands of children that resort to suicide because of cyber bullying.

In Conclusion I would like to restate my contentions that allowing schools to regulate students off campus electronic speech would allow them to lessen cyber bullying that takes lives, it would allow them to lesson if not eradicate cheating as well as drug use, which takes lives and stops children from learning. Finally no part of this resolution is unconstitutional in any way, for these reasons we can only find a pro ballot. Thank you.